



CELEBRATING THE FIRST DECADE OF ASPEN COMICS!

MAY 2013
11 \$3.99
A USA

VINCE **HERNANDEZ**
GIUSEPPE **CAFARO**
MARK **ROSLAN**
TEODORO **GONZALEZ**
JOSH **REED**

EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT
A

BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT

ASSASSINS



CAFARO
Net





CELEBRATING THE FIRST DECADE OF ASPEN COMICS!

MAY 2013 **11** \$3.99 USA

VINCE **HERNANDEZ**
GIUSEPPE **CAFARO**
MARK **ROSLAN**
TEODORO **GONZALEZ**
JOSH **REED**

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSINS

BLOCKADE ENTERTAINMENT



The story so far...

Executive Assistant Lotus has not used her flower moniker since the betrayal by her one and only employer--Virat Yadav. However, her career move did not stop trouble from finding her, as Rani's lavish mansion was turned into the staging ground for a destructive battle between rivaling Executive Assistants. Later, she would painfully discover that her past ally Lily had also been murdered, continuing the trail of bloodshed and tragedy that has shadowed her existence...

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: ASSASSINS

[BLOODLINE]

PART I OF I

WRITER

VINCE HERNANDEZ

PENCILS

GIUSEPPE CAFARO

DIGITAL INKS

MARK ROSLAN

COLORS

TEODORO GONZALEZ

LETTERING

JOSH REED



A: DIRECT EDITION
GIUSEPPE CAFARO
NEI RUFFINO



B: DIRECT EDITION
SIYA OUM

Executive Assistant: Iris created by David Wohl, Brad Foxhoven & Michael Turner

Editor: FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD,

Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

FOR ASPEN:

Founder: MICHAEL TURNER Co-Owner: PETER STEIGERWALD Co-Owner/President: FRANK MASTROMAURO Editor in Chief: VINCE HERNANDEZ Editorial Assistant: JOSH REED
Production Assistant: CHAZ RIGGS Office Coordinator: ERICK RAYMUNDO AspenStore.com: CHRIS RUPP Director of Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: ASSASSINS™ Vol. 1 Issue 11

MAY 2013. FIRST PRINTING. Published by Aspen MLT, Inc., Office of Publication: 5855 Green Valley Circle, Suite. 111, Culver City, CA 90230. The Aspen MLT, Inc. logo® is a registered trademark of Aspen MLT, Inc. Executive Assistant: Assassins™, Executive Assistant: Iris™, Executive Assistant: Orchid™, Executive Assistant: Lotus™, Executive Assistant: Violet™ and their respective logos, are the trademarks of Aspen MLT, Inc. The entire contents of this book, all artwork, characters and their likenesses are © 2013 Aspen MLT, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Any similarities between names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with persons living or dead or institutions is unintended and is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reprinted, reproduced or transmitted by any means or in any form without the express written consent of Aspen MLT, Inc. For information regarding the CPSIA on this printed material call: 203-595-3636 and provide reference # RICH - 488308

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
WWW.ASPENCOMICS.COM

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AT
FACEBOOK.COM/ASPENCOMICS

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AT
TWITTER.COM/ASPENCOMICS

FOR MORE ASPEN COMICS GO TO
WWW.ASPENSTORE.COM

FOR THE COMICS RETAILER NEAREST YOU CALL: 1888-COMIC-BOOK - INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS REPRESENTATIVE: CHRISTINE MEYER [CHRISTINE@GLOYSTUDIO.COM]

ALWAR, INDIA.

THIS IS MY HOME. MUCH LIKE MY EXISTENCE, THEY BOTH SHARE A PARALLEL. IT STANDS BEFORE ME WRECKED AND DAMAGED.

YET, THIS IS NOT ONLY MY HOME, BUT THE LAND MY ANCESTORS INHABITED FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY.

A BLOODLINE THAT TRULY LIVES UP TO ITS NAME.

DEATH IS OUR LIFE.

TWO DECADES EARLIER.

WHEN YOU ARE A CHILD, YOU DO NOT YEARN TO GROW UP TO BECOME A MURDERER.

MOST CHILDREN IN MY VILLAGE HAD DREAMS OF BECOMING DOCTORS, SCIENTISTS, OR EVEN LAWYERS...

...TO MAKE THEIR PARENTS PROUD. FOR ME, HOWEVER...

...MY FATHER'S PRIORITIES WERE LESS...CIVIL.

HRAAAA!

YOU PROVIDE ADEQUATE PRACTICE, RAKISH. YET, YOUR FEAR IS WRITTEN BRIGHT AS DAY WITH YOUR BODY LANGUAGE.

YES, FATHER. I WILL REFINE MY FORM.

HE WAS KNOWN SIMPLY AS "THE FATHER", EVEN TO HIS ASSOCIATES-- NOT JUST TO ME, HIS ONLY DAUGHTER. MY MOTHER HAD ABANDONED US WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL. IT WAS ONLY US TWO.

RANI-- YOUR CLOTHES...? WHAT IS IT?

IT IS NOTHING, FATHER.


DO NOT LIE TO ME, YOUNG LADY.

I AM NOT LYING... IT IS JUST... SOME GIRLS IN MY CLASS... THEY... SMASHED THE TRANSMITTER I BUILT.

THEY MAKE FUN OF ME. PUSH ME. CALL ME "MICRO-CHIP". LIKE I SAID-- IT IS NOTHING.

LIFT YOUR HEAD, YOUNG LADY. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.

COME WITH ME, RANI. I BELIEVE IT IS TIME I SHOWED YOU SOMETHING.




YOUR LOVE OF SCIENCE
AND GADGETS IS ADMIRABLE,
YET I FEAR YOU HAVE *MUCH* TO
LEARN WHEN IT COMES TO THE
TOOLS OF SURVIVAL-- AND
WHO YOU ARE.



DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
BUSINESS OUR
FAMILY IS IN? WHAT
OUR BLOODLINE
HAS CREATED
FOR US?




YOU... HURT
PEOPLE?



THAT IS
INCORRECT. WHAT
I DO IS FREE PEOPLE.
FROM THEIR OWN
PAIN.

THE LIFE THEY
HAVE CHOSEN HAS LED THEM
ASTRAY, DOWN AVENUES THEY
CANNOT RETURN FROM. MY ACTIONS,
WHILE PERMANENT, RELEASE THEM
FROM THEIR IMPRISONMENT--
FOREVER.



AND
NOW I WILL
TEACH YOU OF
THE POWER OUR
LINEAGE HAS
PROVIDED
US.

HE TAUGHT ME EVERY
MARTIAL ART HE HAD LEARNED IN
HIS MANY YEARS OF WORK, WHICH
WAS NEARLY ALL OF THEM.

MY FATHER WAS STERN,
YET COMPASSIONATE.

YOUR ENEMIES WILL
SEEK TO KEEP YOU OFF-
BALANCE, AS SUCH.

YOU MUST
LEARN TO MAINTAIN
POISE NO MATTER
THE SITUATION.

YOU MUST BE
ABLE TO PIECE TOGETHER
NOT ONLY THE SITUATION,
BUT ALSO THE ELEMENTS
WITHIN.


WAIT.

I LEARNED
TO NOT FEAR
THE DARK...

...BUT
TO EMBRACE
IT...

GRRRR

...AND BECOME
A PREDATOR.



NOT YET,
RANI! WAIT
FOR IT...

PATIENCE IS THE
KEY. IT'S WHAT SEPARATES A
CONTRACTOR FROM SOMEONE
WHO KILLS OUT OF
PASSION...

...WE WAIT...

...UNTIL OPPORTUNITY
STRIKES.

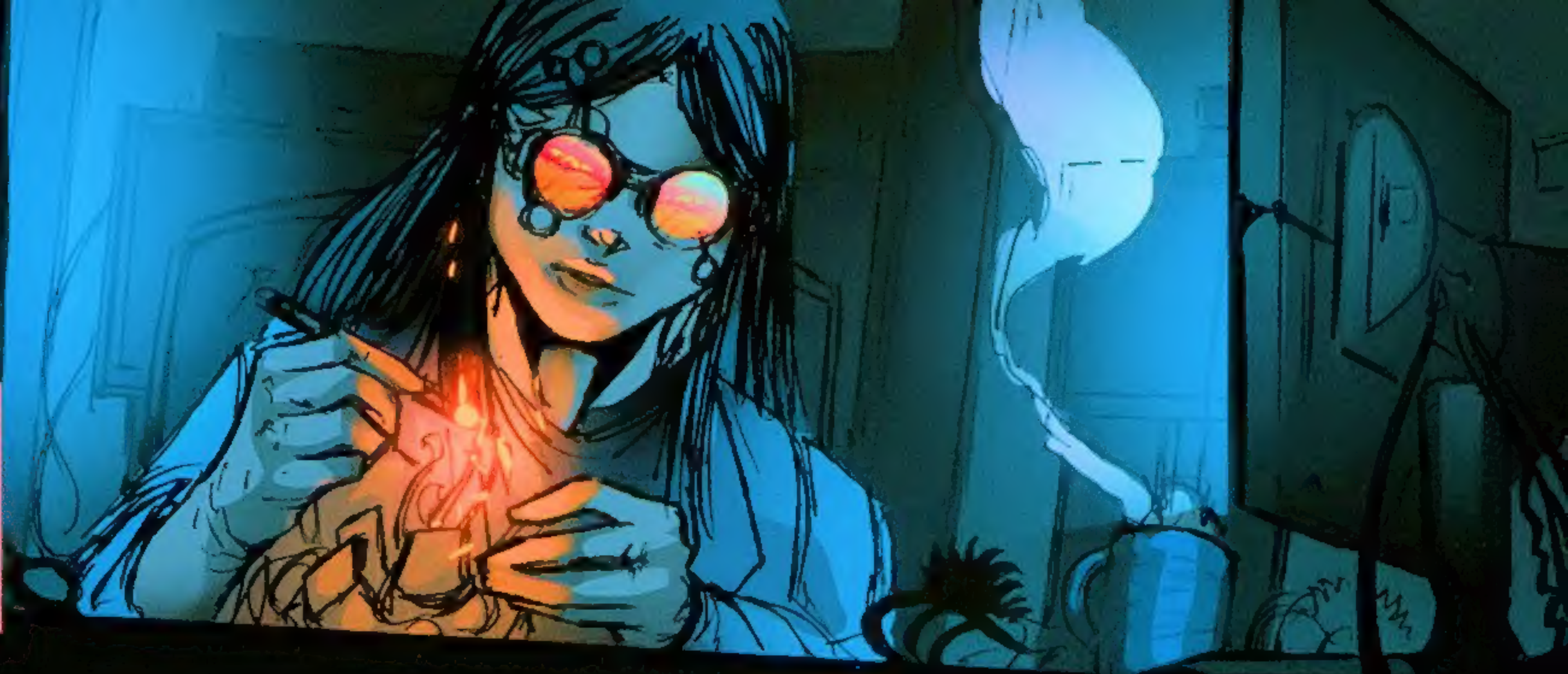
IF YOU COULD
ONLY KNOW THE
PRIDE I HAVE FOR
YOU AT THIS
MOMENT.

YES, OUR
KIND IS RARE,
INDEED.



FATHER THOUGHT THAT MY OBSESSION WITH TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE A WASTE OF TIME, BUT I WAS DETERMINED TO SHOW HIM THE POSSIBILITIES IT POSSESSED.

I ALREADY KNEW AT THE AGE OF TEN THAT I WAS SMARTER THAN MOST OF MY PEERS-- MAYBE EVEN MANY ADULTS. BUT, I NEVER CARED WHAT THEY THOUGHT ANYWAY.



ONLY HIS APPROVAL MATTERED.



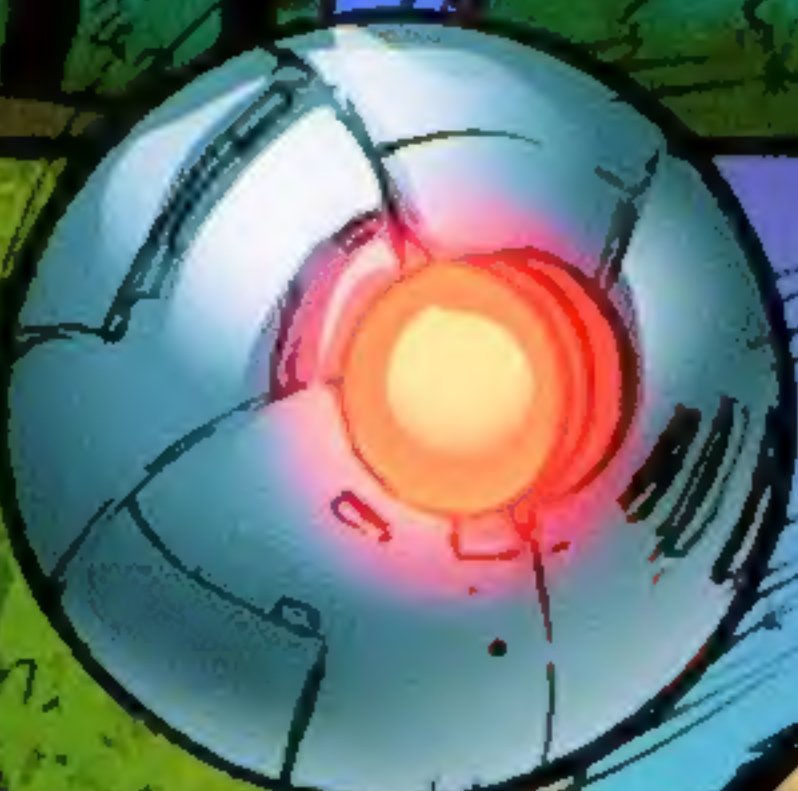
FATHER, LOOK!

ANOTHER GADGET, RANI? HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU BEFORE--

--WATCH!



WHAT A CURIOUS DEVICE--



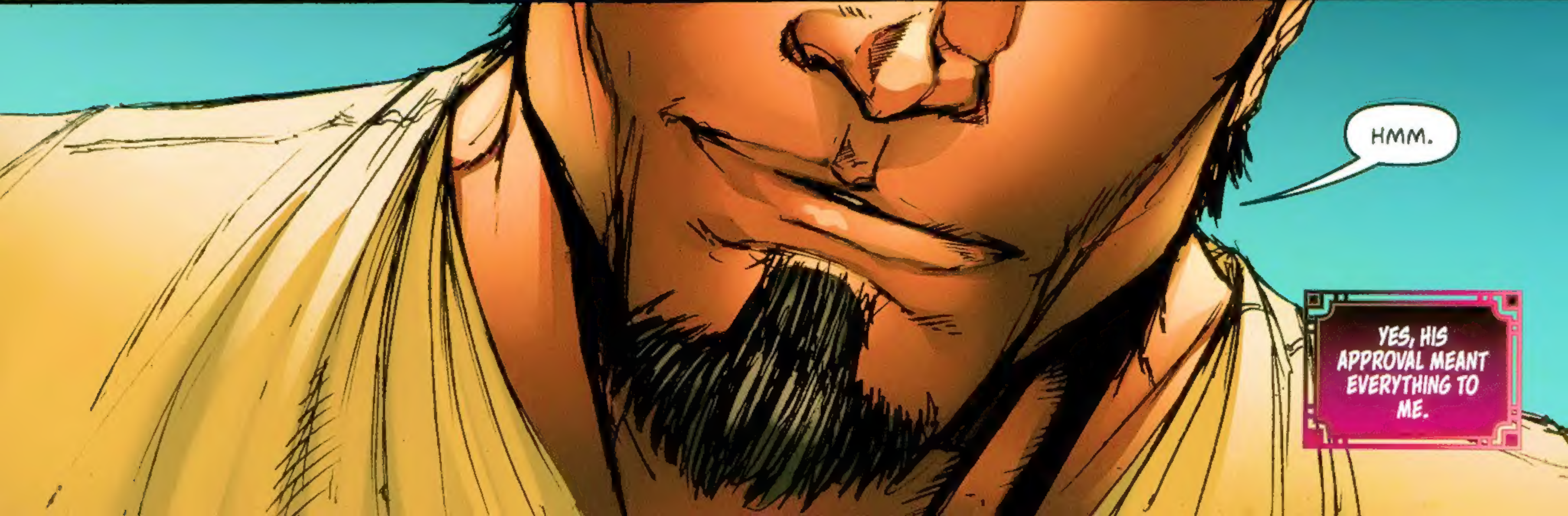
COUGH-- WHAT....? COUGH--



SEE, FATHER, MY GADGETS CAN BE USEFUL! THIS WAS A LOW-GRADE CONCENTRATE OF BUG SPRAY AND FERTILIZER. TRIGGERED BY A CONTACT SENSOR.



THUD



HMM.

YES, HIS APPROVAL MEANT EVERYTHING TO ME.

HOWEVER, THOSE DAYS OF MY YOUTH--
DAYS I CHERISHED-- SOON TURNED INTO ADULthood.
THIS IS WHEN EVERYTHING CHANGED.

YOU REMIND
ME WITH EACH
PASSING DAY OF YOUR
MOTHER. SHE TOO WAS
BEAUTIFUL BEYOND
WORDS.

SHE WAS A
GLORIOUS WOMAN,
YOUR MOTHER.

HOWEVER, I WAS
FOOLISH THEN. I SOUGHT
TO CHANGE HER IN WAYS THAT
I THOUGHT WOULD MAKE US
BOTH HAPPY. HOW WRONG
I WAS.

YOU SEE,
RANI. THIS LIFESTYLE...
IT CHANGES NOT ONLY
WHO WE ARE, BUT OUR
LOVED ONES AS
WELL.

FATHER... WHY
ARE YOU TELLING
ME THIS?

THANK YOU,
FATHER.

BECAUSE I
WANT TO GIVE YOU
SOMETHING.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY.

YOU
DIDN'T HAVE
TO--

--YES, I
DID. OPEN
IT.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL

THIS NECKLACE...

...RANI, THIS BELONGED
TO YOUR MOTHER. I GAVE
IT TO HER, BUT SHE LEFT IT UPON
HER DEPARTURE. WHEN SHE LEFT
BOTH OF US. NOW... I WANT
YOU TO HAVE IT.

YOU WILL
WEAR IT PROUDLY,
WON'T YOU?

ALWAYS,
FATHER.

BUT, LIKE ALL
THINGS IN MY LIFE--
PEACE WAS NEVER
CONSTANT.

RANI--
WAKE UP! COME.
WE MUST LEAVE,
NOW.

WHAT IS IT,
FATHER?

I DO NOT
HAVE MUCH TIME
TO EXPLAIN, BUT I WILL
NOT SHIELD YOU FROM
THE REALITIES OF
OUR SITUATION.

MY COMPETITION
SEEKS TO END MY
BUSINESS, AND BY DOING
SO-- MY LIFE. THIS PERSON...
HAS MANY RESOURCES AT
THEIR DISPOSAL. WE CANNOT
STAY HERE, IT IS TOO
DANGEROUS FOR
YOU.

FATHER?

PLEASE, WE
MUST GO NOW,
RANI.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE
RULES OF HIS OCCUPATION
BECAME PAINFULLY OBVIOUS
TO ME. THE NIGHT WE LEFT
OUR HOME.

WE TRAVELED TO A SAFE HOUSE. I WILL NOT LIE, MY HEART SUNK AT THE SQUALOR EXISTENCE IT PROVIDED. I WAS, AFTER ALL, A GIRL OF MEANS UP UNTIL THAT POINT.

YET, I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER IT AS THE MOST CHERISHED TIME OF MY LIFE, WITH ONLY EACH OTHER TO DEPEND ON. I WAS ALWAYS THE CENTER OF HIS ATTENTION.

IT IS WHISKEY--
HERE, GIVE
IT A TRY.

REALLY.

REALLY?
I CAN?

→PFFFFF!→
GROSS!

HAHAHAHA!

I WAS
ALWAYS SAFE
WITH HIM...

...UNTIL
ONE NIGHT I
WASN'T.

AAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!

FATHER!?

I WILL NEVER
FORGET AWAKENING
TO THE SOUND OF
HIS AGONY.

FATHER!

↳GASP!↳

...OR WHAT
I SAW BEFORE
ME.

NO...

SOMEONE
HAD REACHED
US.

EVERYTHING
CHANGED AT THAT
MOMENT.

FROM THAT POINT ON, MY LIFE
HELD A DIFFERENT PURPOSE.

I RETURNED HOME. THE YOUNG DAUGHTER OF A SLAIN ASSASSIN-- APPARENTLY NOT A THREAT TO MY FATHER'S COMPETITORS.

...OR SO THEY THOUGHT.

CLICK

I WOULD SHOW THEM JUST HOW WRONG THEY WERE, INDEED.



HIS NAME IS THE
TIGER! HE IS A PRIVATE
CONTRACTOR!

I'VE NEVER
MET HIM! THAT IS
ALL, I KNOW--
PROMISE!

PLEASE
LET ME GO!!!



THE TIGER. NOT
VERY SUBTLE CONSIDERING
THE TOKEN.

I HACKED INTO
THE MINISTRY'S DATABASE
BUT FOUND NO MATCH TO
THE ALIAS.



SO I DECIDED
TO DRAW THE SNAKE
OUT INSTEAD.



I TOOK UP
MY FATHER'S WORK. MET
WITH HIS CONTACTS.



WHOOOOSH

BANG

BANG

...UPHELD
OUR FAMILY'S
TRADITION.

BANG



I KNEW IT WOULDN'T BE LONG BEFORE
THE TIGER TRACKED ME DOWN AS WELL
CAME OUT OF HIDING TO FIND ME.

SURE ENOUGH,
ONE NIGHT MY WISH
CAME TRUE.

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

I WAS NINETEEN. STILL NOT
ENTIRELY TRAINED IN THE ART OF
SELF-DEFENSE. I WAS CERTAINLY
MORE OFFENSIVE THEN.

I KNOW
YOU'RE COMING
FOR ME, NO REASON
TO SNEAK ABOUT
IN YOUR OWN
HOME.

THE TIGER I
PRESUME...?

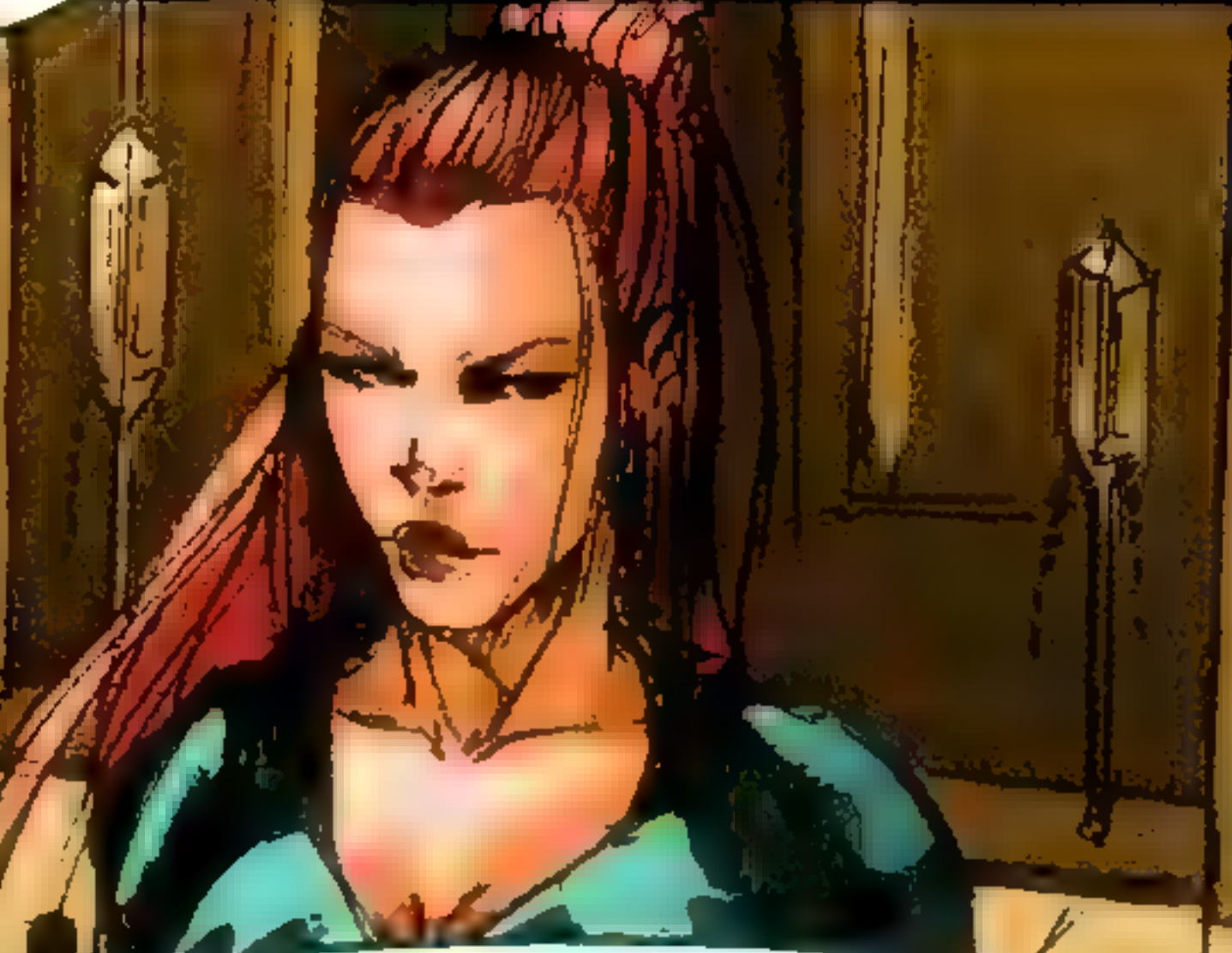


WHAT
GAVE IT
AWAY?

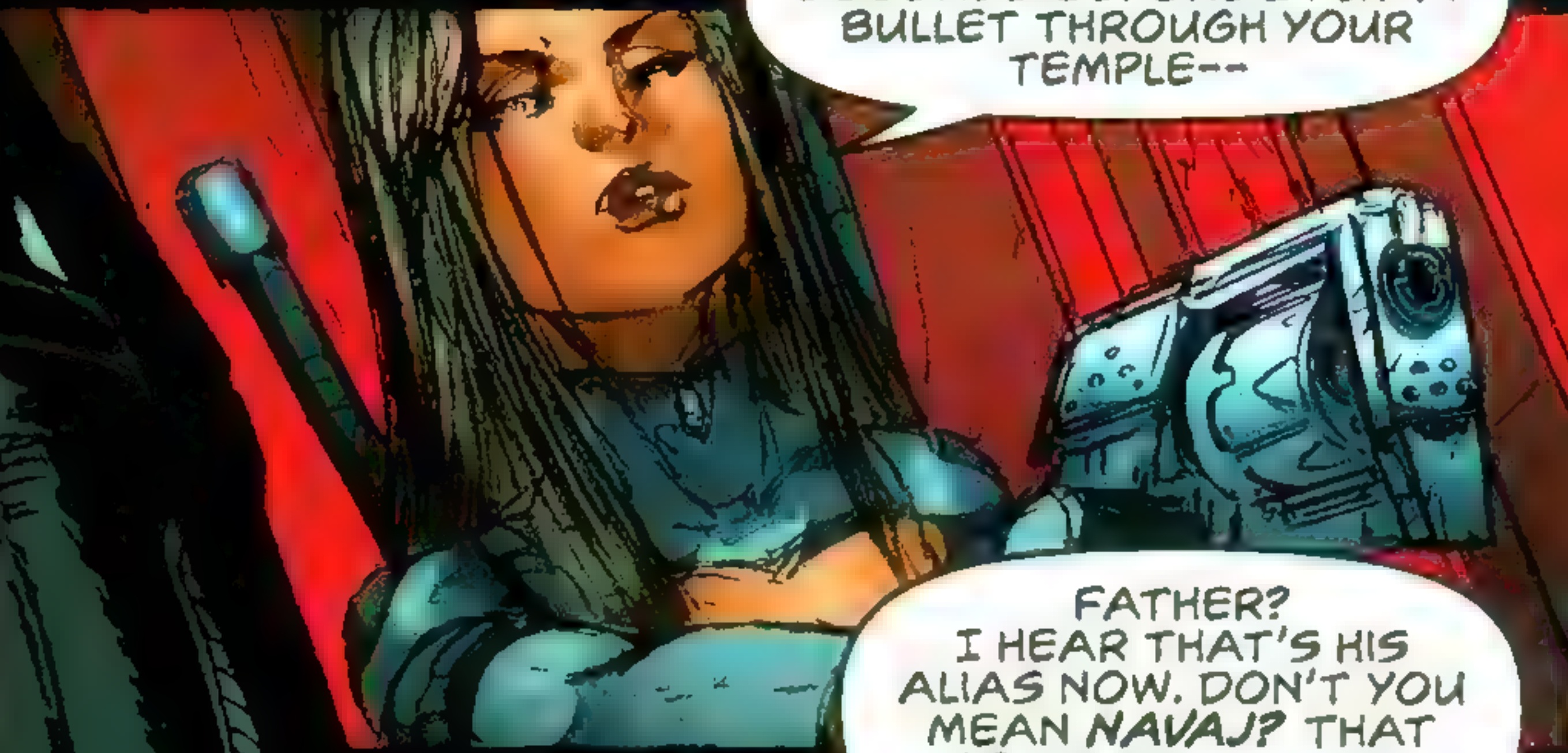
WOULDN'T
TIGRESS BE MORE
APPROPRIATE?

OH, YOU KNOW
HOW THIS BUSINESS CAN
BE. THE CLIENTS FIND OUT YOU'RE
A WOMAN AND FORM THEIR OWN
PRE-CONCEIVED NOTIONS ABOUT
WHO YOU ARE, AND WHAT
YOU CAN DO.

I KNOW THAT
FEELING ALL TOO
WELL. YOU KILLED
MY FATHER...



...AND NOW
YOU HAVE ABOUT THREE
SECONDS BEFORE I PUT A
BULLET THROUGH YOUR
TEMPLE--



FATHER?
I HEAR THAT'S HIS
ALIAS NOW. DON'T YOU
MEAN NAVAJ? THAT
IS HIS REAL NAME,
AFTER ALL.



HOW DO
YOU--?



INTERESTING.
I THOUGHT YOU
WERE A CLEVER ONE,
BUT APPARENTLY I
OVERESTIMATED
YOU.

YOU DON'T
KNOW, DO
YOU?



YOUR
FATHER-- OR
"THE FATHER"--
AS EVERYONE
KNOWS HIM...



...WAS MY HUSBAND.

WHAT...

...YOU ARE... MOTHER?! BUT... YOU KILLED HIM? WHY?

I WANTED A LIFE OF MY OWN. BECAUSE HE TAUGHT ME ALL TOO WELL AND COULDN'T DEAL WITH THE REPERCUSSIONS OF WHAT I'D BECOME.

I WAS YOUR MOTHER, BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. HE KNEW THE RISKS. HE KNOWS THERE CAN BE NO ATTACHMENTS IN THIS INDUSTRY.

NOW, YOU AS WELL...ARE JUST THE COMPETITION--

--AND YOU MUST BE ELIMINATED.

NOW, BOY!

GRRROWWWL



WHO KNEW TIGERS WERE FASTER THAN A PISTOL?

WITHOUT MY WEAPON, I THOUGHT BACK TO MY EXPERIENCE WITH THE MOUNTAIN LION. MY VERY FIRST KILL

I MUST BE PATIENT.

I MUST WAIT--

PSSSSSSSHHHHHHH

--UNTIL OPPORTUNITY STRIKES

THUD

IMPRESSIVE.

I SEE HE
TAUGHT YOU
WELL.

HE TAUGHT
ME EVERYTHING.
IT WAS ONLY HIM,
AFTER ALL.

I GUESS
I DESERVE
THAT.

BUT, I'M NOT
GOING TO SHOOT
YOU. YOU'RE MY
ONLY DAUGHTER.
BESIDES--

--IT WOULD BE
TOO EASY.

CRAAAAK

THUNK

!COUGH!?

THIS LIFESTYLE
DOESN'T SUIT YOU,
RANI. EVEN I COULD SEE
IT FROM THE MOMENT YOU
WERE BORN! YOU'RE NOT
LIKE US. GIVE IT UP!



GIVE IT UP, AND I WILL LET YOU LIVE, UNLIKE YOUR FATHER!

CRACK



SMACK

COUGH! O-O-KAY...

SO YOU ARE WISE, AFTER ALL.

GOOD-BYE, RANI. I ANTICIPATE WE WILL NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AG--



--WAIT...

TAKE THIS, IT'S YOURS... I NEVER WANTED IT ANYWAY.

RIIP

I KNEW HE WOULD EVENTUALLY GIVE THIS TO YOU.



YES...

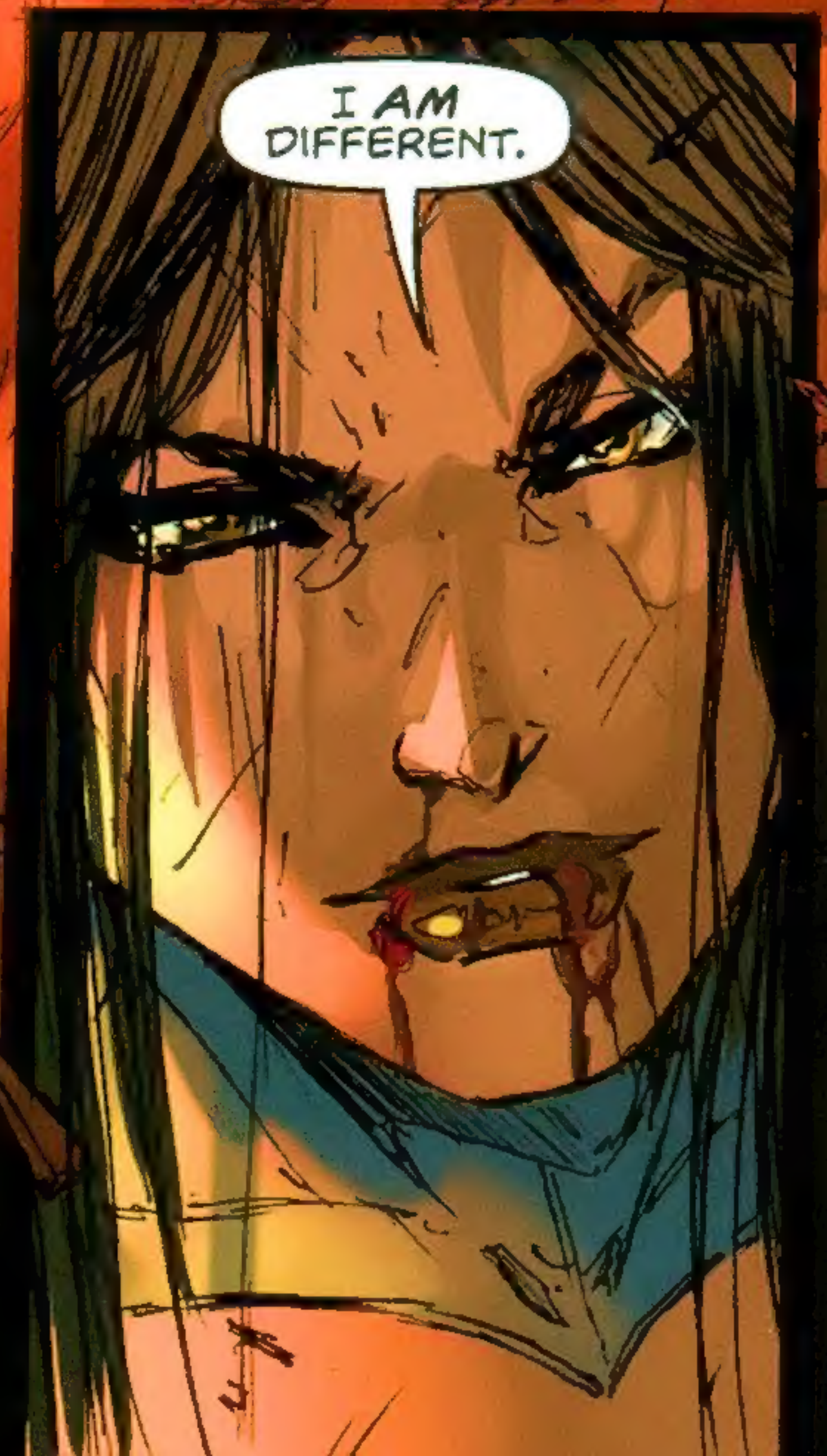
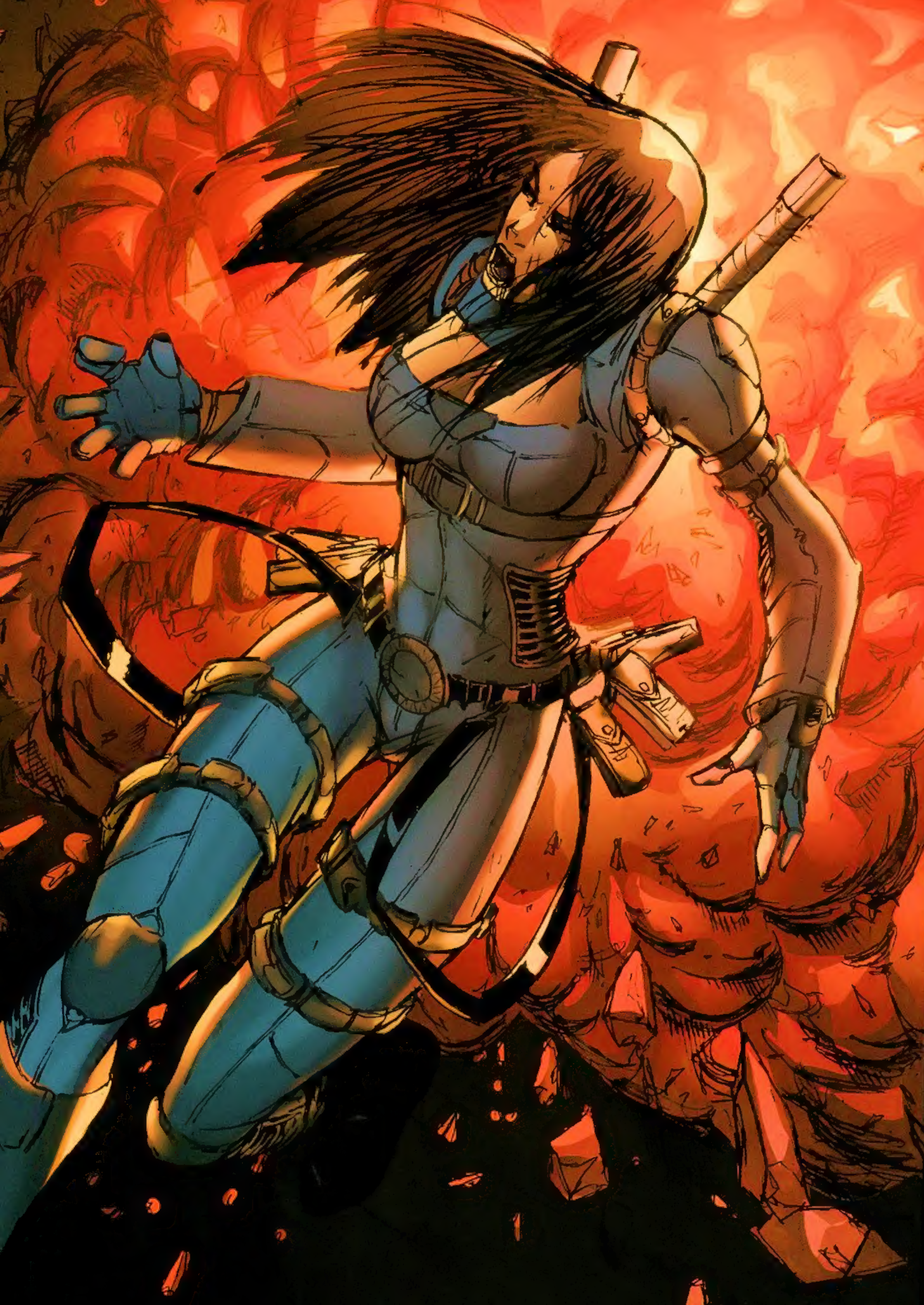
...AND YOU ARE CORRECT. I AM NOT LIKE EITHER OF YOU... I MADE SOME SMALL MODIFICATIONS BEFORE YOU CAME.

A HIGH-GRADE EXPLOSIVE POWDER. MICRO-DETONATOR. YOU GET THE PICTURE...

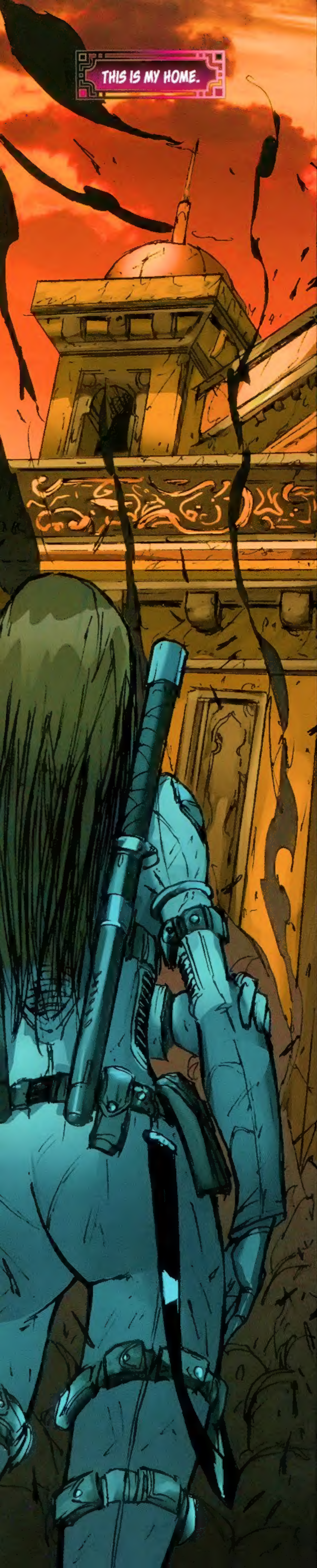


CLICK!


KABOOOOOM



I AM
DIFFERENT.



THIS IS MY HOME.



BUILT UPON THE
BLOOD OF MY FAMILY'S
HISTORY.

MEMORIES
THAT WILL NEVER
FADE.

AND NO MATTER
HOW MANY TIMES I MUST
REBUILD, IT WILL ALWAYS
BE HOME.

CORRECTION.
MAKE THAT...



...OUR HOME.

END

From the Creators that brought you Witchblade & Fathom: **David Wohl** (Witchblade, Aphrodite IX) and **Michael Turner** (Fathom, Soulfire)

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT *ASSASSIN*

**INTRODUCING
A BRAND NEW
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
ASSASSIN!**

#12

DAISY
PART 1 OF 4

**Aspen's First Ever
Ongoing Series Continues
with a New Story Arc!**

WRITTEN BY: **VINCE HERNANDEZ**
PENCILS BY: **LORI HANSON**
INKS BY: **CHARLIE MOK**
COLORS: **TEODORO GONZALEZ**



**LORI "CROSS" HANSON
COVER A**

**ON SALE
NEXT MONTH!**

**VINCENZO CUCCA
COVER B**



**BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT**

The Aspen logo, is the registered trademark of Aspen MLT, Inc. Executive Assistant, Iris™ and the Executive Assistant: Iris logo are the trademarks of Aspen MLT, Inc. All artwork, characters and their likenesses are ©2013 Aspen MLT, Inc. All Rights Reserved.



TARUTARU

novus

SCAN

PROLETARIA

EDIT